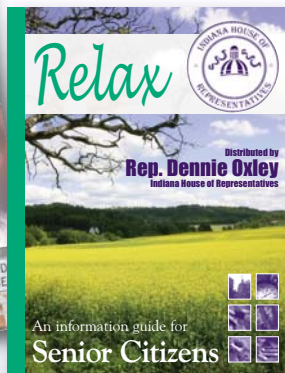
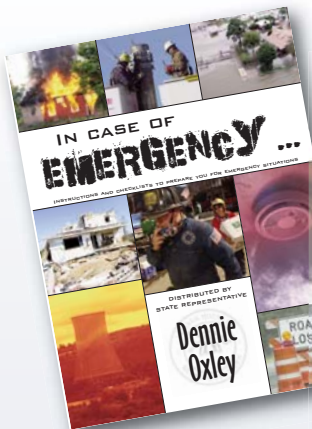


Publications Available Free of Charge



Please call my statehouse office at 800-382-9842 to order any of the following booklets, free of charge.

Travel, Golf and Festival Guides — contain information on events offered through the year where Hoosiers can explore various foods, sports, cultures and music found in Indiana.

Guide to State Agencies — details various agencies within Indiana government, listing phone numbers, functions and areas of responsibility for each.

Hoosier Fun & Facts — teaches elementary students about their state through a combination of educational activities.

Healthy Woman — offers health and lifestyle advice to women of all ages.

In Case of Emergency ... — provides information and checklists you can use to prepare yourself and your family for various emergency situations.

Relax: An Information Guide for Senior Citizens — details government services and other information of interest to Hoosiers over the age of 55.

Fighting Meth

Lawmakers continued the fight against the production and use of methamphetamine (“meth”) in the 2007 session. Senate Bill 520 requires the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute to maintain and publish lists of properties that have been used as meth production labs. It also lays the framework for a database that will better track those who sell drugs that contain key ingredients used in making meth (ephedrine or pseudoephedrine) and the sales of these products.

Energy Issues

With gasoline prices skyrocketing, the Indiana General Assembly placed a high priority on fuel and energy issues. Legislators established tax incentives to spur development of the next generation of alternative fuels and fuel-efficient vehicles right here in Indiana. Other measures were enacted to increase use of ethanol or “E85” fuel. Given that “E85” is derived from corn, Indiana’s agricultural sector should benefit from wider use while helping Hoosiers become more energy independent.



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Representatives



State Representative

Dennie Oxley

✓ A Balanced Budget

Schools Receive
Additional Funding



✓ Property Tax Relief

Property Owners Will
See Relief For 2007



✓ Fighting High Gas Prices

Legislation Attempts To Cap
State Sales Tax On Gasoline



2007 Session Report

Helping Hoosier Families

Bipartisan Budget Helps Hoosier Families

Legislators worked together to approve a balanced, bipartisan state budget that provides **increased funding for our schools and health care services while providing \$550 million in property tax relief.**

The new state budget that takes effect on July 1 provides almost a **4 percent average increase in state support for public schools** in each of the next two years and increases in state funding for our colleges and universities of more than 4.5 percent during that time. The budget also funds a new life sciences initiative for Indiana University and a new advanced manufacturing program for Purdue University.

The budget also **reduces 2007 property taxes by \$300 million in the form of a refund and also increases homestead credits by \$250 million next year.** In addition, the budget makes sure that the state pays back money owed in delayed payments to universities and local units of government.

The budget contains additional funding for health care for Hoosiers on lower incomes and the CHOICE home health care program. It also funds additional caseworkers for child services and designates more than **\$1 billion for major highway construction projects.**

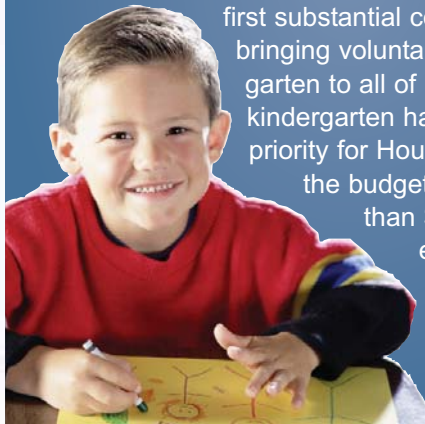
We accomplished all of this while making sure the budget doesn't spend more than it takes in. It is a responsible, balanced budget that will help Hoosier citizens.

Schools Benefit from State Budget

Indiana's schoolchildren are big winners with the new state budget approved in the 2007 session.

My number one goal this past session was to restore funding to schools that suffered state funding cuts in the 2005 House Republican budget. I am pleased that House Democrats were able to work with the Senate to boost funding for K-12 education by almost four percent each year of the biennium.

In addition to the significant school formula increases, the new budget contains the first substantial commitment to bringing voluntary full-day kindergarten to all of Indiana. Full-day kindergarten has been a long-time priority for House Democrats, and the budget bill provides more than \$90 million to expand this critical early education program over the next two years.



Rep. Oxley Addresses High Gas Prices

As gas prices rise above \$3 per gallon, many Hoosiers are seeking relief.

I authored a plan to provide relief that received bipartisan support in the House, but unfortunately it was not heard in the Senate and did not win backing from the Governor's office.

My legislation would have capped the price on which the state sales tax could be charged at approximately \$2.25 per gallon. This would have saved Hoosiers millions in taxes when gas prices spike upward.

Indiana is one of only seven states in the country to impose a sales tax on gasoline. I will continue to support ways to reduce or eliminate this unfair burden that falls especially hard on the working families of our state.



Rep. Dennie Oxley discusses legislation with Rep. Russ Stilwell (D-Boonville).

Minimum Wage

In a victory for working families, the General Assembly passed the first increase in the state minimum wage in more than a decade. With the passage of House Bill 1027, Indiana's minimum wage will now be permanently tied to the federal minimum wage, which will be raised to \$7.25 in three stages over two years.

Not all employees are covered by the federal minimum wage, so even when it is raised to \$7.25 as outlined by recent congressional action, some Hoosiers would have been left behind. However, thanks to House Bill 1027, thousands of Indiana's workers will now benefit from automatic increases following congressional action.

Protecting Victims

House Democrats placed a high priority in 2007 on strengthening legal protections for crime victims.

We worked to give victims of crime the right to take leave from work in order to attend court proceedings and to confer with prosecuting attorneys.

Other legislation enacted this past session allows victims of domestic violence to opt out of rental contracts to escape from abusive relationships.



Rep. Oxley Supports Property Tax Relief

I have been listening to your concerns about rising local property taxes and was committed to taking action in 2007. Experts are now predicting that the average homeowner's property taxes will increase by more than 20 percent this year.

To help soften the impact of the rising property tax burden, I supported legislation that provides **\$550 million in additional property tax relief over the next two years.** Homeowners will benefit from \$300 million in increased 2007 Homestead Credits in the form of a rebate sent later this year. In 2008, another \$250 million worth of Homestead Credits will be applied directly to tax bills.

In addition, **lawmakers established a more permanent, long-term framework for reducing Indiana local government's reliance on property taxes.** Local officials will gain flexibility to both cut property taxes and pay for critical public safety services like police and fire protection.

Another component of property tax-related reform was the creation of county oversight boards to address the rising costs of school and local government construction. These boards will help better control and prioritize capital projects in each community.



Rep. Dennie Oxley and Speaker of the House Pat Bauer (D-South Bend) review issues in the House Chamber.

I feel confident that in addition to substantial short-term relief, we have made great strides in creating a more fair and equitable tax system that relies less on property taxes.

A Guide to the Property Tax Rebate



- Why a Rebate Check?**
The state will not collect the money earmarked for increased 2007 Homestead Credits until November, so a rebate is the best way to provide homeowners this tax relief.
- Will I Receive a Rebate?**
All homeowners will automatically receive one unless they are delinquent on taxes.
- When Will I Receive the Rebate?**
All eligible taxpayers should receive a check in late 2007 or early 2008. Some homeowners who pay their property taxes through escrow may have their rebate sent directly to their escrow agent or lender.
- Who Will Issue the Rebate?**
The state will transfer the funds for the rebate to your county government, and county officials will calculate your rebate and mail a check.